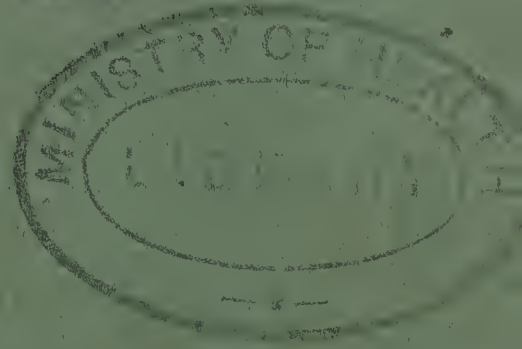


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The Urban District of Ilfracombe.



ANNUAL REPORT

— ON —

THE HEALTH OF ILFRACOMBE,
VITAL STATISTICS,
SANITARY WORK, Etc.

For the Year

1925

— BY —

D. C. ADAM, M.B, Ch. B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

— AND —

HERBERT J. KARSLAKE, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
M.I.C.S.
Sanitary Inspector.

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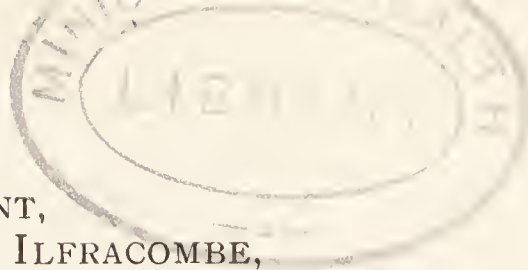
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HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, ILFRACOMBE,
APRIL 20TH, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit for your consideration a Report on the Public Health of Ilfracombe at the close of the year ending December 31st, 1925.

The Report is constructed on the lines indicated in a Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The population of the Ilfracombe District as furnished by the census returns for 1921, is 11,772.

The population as furnished by the Registrar General estimated to the middle of the year for calculating the Birth and Death Rates is 8,879.

The Birth Rate for 1925 is 10.7 per 1,000 population.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales is 18.3.

The Rate of Infant Mortality for the year was 94.7.

The Infant Death Rate for England and Wales was 75.

The total Deaths corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers was 125, and is equal to a Death Rate of 10.5.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1925 was 12.2 per 1,000 population.

57 Deaths were registered at and over 70 years, which is equal to a percentage of 50 of the total deaths.

Tuberculosis in 1925 caused 10 deaths. A Death Rate of 1.0 per 1,000 population.

Cancer caused 17 deaths; a Death Rate of 1.9 per 1,000 population.

The District has been singularly free from Zymotic Diseases during the past 5 years.

The report of the Sanitary Inspector will be found appended.

I desire to draw the Council's particular attention to his statements in reference to Slaughter-houses, and the administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

It appears very evident that before any further closure of Private Slaughter-houses can be justly enforced, proper and sufficient accommodation will have to be provided at the Public Slaughter-house.

I feel very much indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for his valuable assistance and co-operation in the work of the Sanitary Department, and I also wish to record my thanks to the Matron for the excellent work done at the Isolation Hospital during the year.

I am, yours faithfully,

D. C. ADAM,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	5,627
Population (Census 1921)	11,772
Population (Registrar General's estimate, 1925)	8,879
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	2,394
Number of separate occupiers (1921)	2,340
Rateable Value	£62,719
Sum represented by a penny rate	£240 14s. 3d.

Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.

Agriculture, Fishing, Lodging-house and Hotel-keeping, General Retail Shopkeeping.

There are a number of Private Residents, mostly consisting of persons retired from professions and business.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The Southern Limit of the Urban Sanitary District of Ilfracombe is a range of high ground (600–800 feet) forming the water parting. It runs East and West parallel to the Bristol Channel, which constitutes the Northern boundary.

The East and West sides of the District are not defined by any well marked natural limits.

The area slopes gradually to the North and terminates in a line of high cliffs which fall abruptly to the sea. These cliffs are broken by the mouths of three valleys which intersect the District from South to North.

The town proper lies in the centre of these valleys, protected by the coast ridge.

The rocks are shales over sandstone and grit.

Meteorological Observations.

Daily observations have been taken as follows :—

SUMMER TIME 10 hours and 18 hours.

WINTER TIME 9 hours and 17 hours.

The monthly reports were forwarded to the Meteorological Office during the year. Telegraphic daily reports were also sent reporting Sunshine, Rainfall, Temperature and any special phenomena.

BAROMETER.—The highest observed reading of the barometer corrected for Index Error, Temperature, Gravity and Altitude during the year was 1037.7 millibars on the 19th January, whilst the lowest reading was 971.2 millibars on December 20th.

TEMPERATURE.—The highest temperature registered in the Stevenson's screen during the year was 74.0 degrees on the 9th, 10th and 11th of June, whilst the lowest was 30.0 degrees on November 21st.

The average mean daily range for the year was 7.5 degrees.

The mean temperature in the screen for the year was 51.3 degrees.

HUMIDITY.—The average relative humidity of the air taken at Morning observation was 82.2%, and the Evening observation 79.3%, and complete saturation did not occur.

SUNSHINE.—The total amount of bright sunshine for the year was 1598.9 hours. The highest for the last 10 years excepting 1921.

The day with the greatest amount of sunshine was June 15th, with 14.7 hours. There was 85 sunless days during the year.

RAINFALL.—The heaviest fall of rain in any one "Rainfall Day," *i.e.* 24 hours ending Morning Observation on the following day, was 36.3 millimeters on February 11th.

The month with the heaviest rainfall was February, with 151.1 millimeters.

There was no rainfall in June.

Ilfracombe.

HOURS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE.

1916	1514.8 hours.	1921	1821.3 hours.
1917	1526.4 hours.	1922	1536.3 hours.
1918	1522.2 hours.	1923	1427.0 hours.
1919	1597.4 hours.	1924	1470.2 hours.
1920	1434.1 hours.	1925	1598.0 hours.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS.

		Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		Total
Males	...	51	...	1	...	52
Females	...	41	...	2	...	43
						95

Birth Rate	...	...	10.7
Infant Deaths	...	...	9.
Infant Mortality...	...	...	94.7

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of child birth :—

From Sepsis	...	...	Nil
Other causes	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil		
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil		
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Cases Notified	Nil
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Deaths.

(Corrected for inward and outward transfers).

		Males.	Females.	Total.
All ages and all causes	...	52	73	125
Death Rate	...	...	10.5	

Cause of Death.

Influenza	2
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ...	3
Tuberculosis (other forms) ...	3
Cancer	17
Rheumatic Fever	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	14
Heart Disease	29
Arterio-Sclerosis	13
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	6
Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	2
Nephritis	1
Congenital Debility and Malfor- mation. Premature Birth ...	3
Suicide	0
Other deaths from violence ...	5
Other defined diseases	18

125

**Table Showing Chief Causes of Death During
Past Five Years.**

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Heart Disease	21	29	22	32	29
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	9	6	6	9	14
Arterio-Sclerosis	7	10	15	8	13
Cancer	15	16	26	17	17
Tuberculosis (lungs) ...	5	12	6	7	7

HEART DISEASE during 1925 was responsible for nearly a quarter of the total deaths. This would appear to be a very important factor, but the average age at death of the persons in whom the primary cause of death was certified as heart disease was 76 years. This condition, therefore, does not seem to have had any serious effect in shortening the duration of life.

The death rates from CANCER and PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS are the same as in 1924.

**Table showing Total Deaths, Death Rates, Total Births,
Birth Rates, etc., during past 5 years.**

Year.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Infant Mortality.	Infant Deaths.
1921	124	10.5	134	11.3	44.7	6
1922	133	11.2	127	10.7	55.1	7
1923	116	9.8	128	10.8	39	5
1924	144	12.2	112	9.5	62.5	7
1925	125	10.5	95	10.7	94.7	9

The Birth Rate is low, but has remained fairly constant during the last 5 years. The smallness of the figure is to some extent accounted for by the disturbance of the natural age distribution of the population owing to the influx of elderly persons who retire to Ilfracombe.

The Rate of Infant Mortality is considerably increased and is higher than that for England and Wales, but owing to the total number of births being so small one death more or less makes a difference of 10 in the Infant Mortality Rate.

Frequency of Old Age.

57 deaths, or 46% of the total deaths registered, were at 70 years and over.

37 deaths, or 32.4% of the total deaths registered were at 75 years and over.

20 deaths, or 17.5% of the total deaths registered were at 81 years and over.

7 deaths, or 6.1% of the total deaths registered were at 90 years and over.

Amount of Poor Law Relief.

The actual amount expended in Out-door Relief in the Parish of Ilfracombe during the year ending 30th September, 1925, was £1,995 6s. 10d. (including relief due to unemployment).

The number of cases relieved was approximately 140, involving about 370 persons.

Free Medical Attendance and Medical necessities are supplied to the above by the District Medical Officer, and also to others who are not in a position to pay for Medical attendance, such as Old Age Pensioners, who are solely dependant on their pension.

Institutional treatment when required can be obtained at the Barnstaple Poor Law Institution for persons not requiring serious operations, or exceptional medical treatment. Full advantage is taken of the above.

Recommendations are also provided for the Ilfracombe Tyrrell Cottage Hospital, North Devon Infirmary, and the West of England Eye Infirmary.

Infectious Diseases.

Number of Notifications received during the year :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	9
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	2
Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	...	...	...	20

Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	1

Notifications Received During Past 5 Years.

	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
Small Pox...	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	6	4	2	2	9
Diphtheria ...	0	0	13	6	4
Enteric Fever ...	0	1	3	0	1
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas ...	0	0	1	2	2
Pneumonia ...	3	4	3	5	4
Encephalitis Lethargica...	0	0	0	1	2
Malaria ...	2	1	0	2	0
Tuberculosis ...	10	32	29	13	20

Isolation Hospital.

The Isolation Hospital is situated on the Southern side of the town, in the St. Brannocks District.

It consists of two Isolation Blocks, one containing 4 beds, and the other two eight bed wards.

These buildings are equipped with the necessary sanitary fittings and appliances.

The Administrative Block consists of Caretaker's rooms, Medical Officer's room, Nurse's sitting-room, and six bed rooms.

The Disinfecting Block is fitted with a "Thresh" low pressure disinfecter.

The Hospital Laundry and a Mortuary are also situated within the Hospital grounds.

Control Over Infectious Diseases.

The Medical Officer of Health receives all notifications of Infectious Disease, and on receipt of instructions from him the Sanitary Inspector supplements his visits by obtaining a record of the movements of the patient or patients, together with any other information that will tend to trace the origin of the case as well as ascertain the source of milk supply, place of employment and school if any, and the condition of the sanitary arrangements of the house.

Unless satisfactory isolation can be arranged at home, all cases are moved to the Isolation Hospital.

Where the case is isolated at home suggestions as to precautionary measures to be adopted are made, and a precautionary leaflet, specially drawn up, is left together with a form which has to be filled up and signed by the Medical Attendant at the termination of the illness.

The Sanitary Inspector directs all necessary disinfecting and secures the removal of the patients to the Isolation Hospital wherever necessary.

Disinfecting.

Clothing and Bedding	...	...	191 articles
Clothing and Bedding destroyed			93 articles
Houses Disinfected	...	...	31
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	46
Hospital Wards Disinfected	...		6

Laboratory Work.

The Devon County Council provides free Bacteriological Examinations of material for the detection of Diphtheria and Tuberculosis.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept in stock and is issued to Medical Practitioners as required.

No use has yet been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever.

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS.	CASES NOTIFIED.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
10 to 15 years	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
15 to 20 "	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
20 to 25 "	2	8	0	0	0	2	0	0
25 to 35 "	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35 to 45 "	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	1
45 to 55 "	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
66 years	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Totals	5	11	1	3	4	3	1	2

It has not been necessary to take action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been taken for the compulsory removal of persons to hospital under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Verminous Persons.

There are no facilities available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons.

Premises are disinfected, and articles which have been exposed to infection are dealt with at the Isolation Hospital disinfecting station.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Devon County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts.

There is a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre which at present is managed by a Voluntary Committee.

There is a part-time Medical Officer appointed who is a local Practitioner, and whose honorarium is paid by the Ilfracombe Urban District Council.

The Devon County Council Health Visitor also attends.

In the beginning of the year the Committee acquired a house in a central position in the town as a new home for the Centre. This was formally opened in June.

During the year 20 new mothers were admitted to the Centre, and the total attendances of mothers were 1,793.

The attendances of children numbered 1,472.

Home Nursing Lectures and Health Talks are regularly given.

Water Supply.

The Public Water Supply is constant, and is delivered by gravitation. It is of the highest purity, and practically unlimited in quantity.

It is received by eight intakes, which are fed from a watershed of upwards of 3,000 acres of open moor, forming part of the Forest of Exmoor.

It is conveyed by means of an aqueduct and pipe line for a distance of 14 miles to the Ilfracombe reservoirs. It is then filtered and stored in covered service reservoirs before distribution to points as far away as Hele on the East, and Lee, Mortehoe and Woolacombe on the West.

To facilitate the delivery of water to Mortehoe and Woolacombe break pressure tanks have been constructed.

The subjoined is an analysis of the water as furnished by the Clinical Research Association.

						Grains per gallon.
Total solid residue (dried to 102 C.)	...	...	...	...	...	3.50.
Combined Chlorine	...	...	...	...	...	0.8.
Expressed as common salt	...	...	...	...	...	1.3.
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	trace only.
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.0004.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	...	0.003.
Oxygen required to oxidize the organic matter	...	...	...	...	...	0.037.
Hardness in degrees	...	...	...	...	...	1.9.
Lead or Copper	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

OBSERVATIONS.—This is a water of great purity and from a chemical point of view admirably suitable for drinking purposes.

This water is liable to have a lead solvent action at certain periods of the year, but the use of lead pipes is forbidden in distributing water for domestic use.

With the exception of certain houses, principally farm buildings in the outlying parts of the District, and a few houses in the Lee District which have their own Private Water Supplies, the whole of the population is supplied with water from the Council's Works directly to the houses.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—There is no known pollution.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The sewers are modern, satisfactory, and well equipped with ventilating shafts, manholes, and automatic flushing tanks.

There is a separate system for Hele.

The outfalls discharge into the tide-way of the Bristol Channel at points considerably below low water mark.

Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the closets in the town area are of the water-carriage system through pipe drains to the sewers.

In the quasi rural district earth closets, and water closets connected with cesspools are in use, and the soil goes direct to the land.

There are no privy middens.

Scavenging.

A statement as to the arrangements for the removal and disposal of house refuse will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

(See report of Sanitary Inspector).

Schools.

The sanitary conditions and water supplies in the Public Elementary Schools are generally satisfactory.

In one school new conveniences have been erected.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

1 Medical Officer of Health. (Part time).

1 Sanitary Inspector. (Whole time).

The Sanitary Inspector is the appointed Inspector under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910. He is also the appointed Official to act under the Food and Drugs Acts, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. He supervises the collection and removal of house and trade refuse, and Street cleansing.

He is the Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, and does the clerical work of the Sanitary Department.

Sanitary Administration.

A statement of the work of the Sanitary Department during the year, and action taken under the Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc., is set out in the appended report of the Sanitary Inspector.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Complaints Received.

Written	...	...	...	...	71
Anonymous	...	...	...	...	9
Verbal	...	...	...	...	205

Complaints were received in respect to :—

Structural defects in houses
 Accumulations of filth
 Pig keeping
 Fowl keeping
 The keeping of cats and dogs
 Cock crowing
 Prevalence of rats
 Black smoke
 Offensive smells
 House refuse removal
 Street cleansing
 Obstructions
 Bill-posting stations
 Milk and cream
 Unsound food
 Flooding
 Refuse receptacles
 Water supply
 Public conveniences, etc.

Notices Served.

Act, etc.	Statutory	Informal	Total
Housing Acts	2	7	9
P.H. Acts	17	79	96
Rent Restrictions Act ...	3	6	9
Local Acts	31	8	39
Regulations		23	23
Bye-laws	9	3	12
Food and Drugs Acts ...		11	11
Factory & Workshops Acts	2	1	3
Infectious Diseases ...		39	39
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	4	71	75
Petroleum Acts		14	14

Inspections, Visits, etc.

Premises.	Visits.	Structural Defects Found.	Defects Remedied
Bakehouses	15	2	2
Slaughterhouses	263	11	10
Unlicensed Slaughtering Places ...	57		
Markets	43		
Ice Cream Places	13	5	5
Provision and Butchers Shops ...	59		
Dairies and Cowsheds	32	4	4
Workshops	23		
Schools	17	1	1
Piggeries	15	3	3
Houses (Housing Acts and P.H. Acts)	212	141	133
Drain Testing	63	21	21
Infectious Diseases	46		
Other Premises, Petroleum Stores, etc.	53		

Slaughterhouses.

	In 1920.	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925.
Registered ...	0	0	0
Licensed ...	5	3	3
Total	5	3	3

The 3 Private Slaughterhouses are maintained in a reasonably good structural condition.

Public Slaughter-house.

The number of animals slaughtered at the Public Slaughter-house during 1925 was 3,912.

This is an increase of 1,309 over the number slaughtered in 1924.

Owing to the limited available accommodation at the Public Slaughter-house, considerable difficulty and inconvenience is experienced, especially during the summer months.

At times butchers cannot find reasonable accommodation to effectively carry out their work. Because of this they are often compelled to buy the dressed carcasses of animals which have been slaughtered in local Private Slaughter-houses, or make their purchases from outside the District.

The provision and maintenance of proper and convenient buildings and appliances for the slaughtering, dressing, and cooling of food animals must not be regarded solely as a workshop for butchers provided at Public expense, but rather as a necessary Public Service in order to secure a sound meat supply, together with a guarantee that slaughtering is carried out under proper conditions.

The prevention of diseased meat getting on the market is of vital importance, and must on no account be left out of consideration.

The Council have for some time past had the question of remodelling and increasing the accommodation at the Public Slaughter-houses under consideration, which, if carried out, will undoubtedly facilitate meat inspection, and in the end prove to be both in the interest of the butcher and that of the Public Health.

Diseased Meat Destroyed During 1925.

Beef. (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	2,101 lbs.
Pork. (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	695 lbs.
Beef. (Other diseases)	...	...	...	396 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	52 lbs.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

These Regulations have been in force since April 1st, 1925.

Notices of intended slaughter have been received in respect to 5,041 animals.

There has generally been a desire to conform to the letter and the spirit of the Regulations.

The transport of meat is certainly more cleanly than it used to be, and carelessness and indifferent handling is gradually disappearing.

In all butcher's shops cards are displayed which state that meat must not be handled by the Public.

With 3 exceptions the whole of the butcher's shops in the District are provided with glass fronts. In regard to the 3 open fronted shops, letters have been written, and interviews have from time to time taken place with the respective occupiers in regard to the provision of glass.

An assurance has in each case been given that windows will be fixed to the shops in the near future.

Many written and verbal notices have been given under the Regulations, and in two cases only have Police Court proceedings been taken and convictions recorded for failing to notify the time and place of slaughter.

The occasional slaughter of pigs by farmers and cottagers in the outlying districts, often in the early morning or late at night, presents a serious difficulty in regard to meat inspection.

From April, 1925, to the end of December, 74 notices were received from such persons of intended slaughter on unlicensed premises.

Every endeavour is made to visit these places and inspect the carcase and offal at the time of slaughter, and when this is not possible, information is obtained as to the destination of the carcase, and an endeavour is made to inspect the meat at the butcher's shop after delivery.

Written notices have been received of Regular Slaughter in respect to 416 beasts, 208 pigs, and 4,004 sheep and calves.

Written notices have been received of Occasional Slaughter in respect to 46 beasts, 122 pigs, and 182 sheep and calves.

Verbal notices have been received of Occasional Slaughter in respect to 21 beasts, 29 pigs, and 13 sheep.

Stalls.

The only stalls from which meat is sold are certain stalls used periodically in the covered market. When meat is on sale these stalls carry a card bearing the name and address of the vendor.

The quantity of meat, principally pork, sold in this way is very small.

Meat Marking.

Food animals inspected and found fit for human consumption are not officially marked.

Food and Drugs Acts.

23 samples of milk, and 1 sample of butter were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

19 samples of milk and 1 sample of butter proved to be genuine.

4 samples of milk contained added water or were deficient in fat.

Police Court Proceedings were taken against 4 milk vendors and in each case a conviction was recorded.

Unsound Food Destroyed.

Tinned Meat ...	...	...	...	27 tins
„ Fruit ...	...	...	...	112 „
„ Fish ...	...	...	...	3 „
„ Milk ...	...	...	...	22 „
„ Food ...	...	...	...	2 „
„ Eggs ...	...	...	...	44 lbs.
Potatoes ...	...	...	...	2,240 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Many improvements have been carried out during the year in connection with premises where milch cows are housed ; but the condition of the cowsheds generally is still far from satisfactory.

The buildings are old, and much below the standard which the Regulations suggest. Under these conditions the production of a really clean milk is a difficult proposition.

Producers of milk are, however, taking a much keener interest in the production of clean milk, and there is a growing desire to improve the conditions under which milk is produced and handled.

No "Graded Milk" is yet produced or retailed in the District.

No action has been taken during the year as to tuberculous milk and tuberculous cattle.

32 visits have been made to cowsheds, 4 notices have been served in regard to structural defects, 6 notices have been given in reference to the daily cleansing of floors, and 62 letters have been sent in regard to limewashing.

Milk and Cream Regulations.

3 samples of cream were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis.

2 samples were found to contain preservatives, and 1 sample was genuine.

Police Court Proceedings were taken against the sellers of cream containing preservatives and not labelled in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations. Both cases were dismissed.

Scavenging.

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

All house refuse is taken to Killacleave Wood and dumped.

The collection and removal of House-and-Trade Refuse is in the hands of a contractor.

There is a twice weekly collection from houses from May to September inclusive, and a once weekly collection during the other months of the year.

One motor lorry and one horse drawn cart is employed in connection with the removal of house and trade refuse.

During the summer months 777 lorry loads, and 483 cart loads of refuse were taken to the dépôt.

During the winter months 1,074 lorry loads, and 93 cart loads of refuse were dealt with.

The estimated total weight of house refuse deposited at the dépôt was 3,122 tons.

No complaints of nuisances have been received in regard to the "tip" during the year.

The "tip" is freely used by tradesmen and others for the disposal of refuse and surplus materials.

TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL.

The quantity of trade refuse collected and disposed of by the Council continues to increase.

198 lorry loads of trade refuse, equalling 99 tons, were taken to the Council's Dépôt in Wilder Road and disposed of by burning.

STREET CLEANSING.

The sweeping of streets is carried out by workmen in the employ of the Council.

The removal of the sweepings is done by contract.

Much inconvenience and considerable difficulty is continually being caused by householders depositing garden and other refuse in accommodation roads, tradesmen emptying packing cases in streets and allowing straw and packing material to blow about, shop-keepers sweeping dust from shop floors on pavements, and persons throwing dirty water in channels and street gullies.

Many written and verbal warning notices have been given to offenders, but no lasting improvement has resulted.

It appears that the problem will remain unsolved until Police Court Proceedings are taken against those thoughtless individuals who persist in this most undesirable and slovenly practice.

General Housing Conditions.

Something like 100 houses are still required to meet the reasonable demands of the District.

Land has been purchased in Highfield Road, and plans have been approved for the erection of 48 more houses by the local Authority.

It is expected that a considerable number of these houses will be completed and occupied during the coming year.

There is very little overcrowding in the District and the standard of the houses generally is good.

There are no back-to-back houses.

There are no Bye-laws with reference to Houses let in Lodgings.

The Council have Bye-laws controlling Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Housing Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	...	30
By Local Authority, with State assistance	...	...	0
By Other Persons, with State assistance	...	...	0
Number of dwellinghouses inspected under the Housing (Inspection) of District Regulations, 1910	...	...	6
Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation			0
Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	6

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925 :

Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	2
Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice, by Owners	...	...	...	2
Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	...	...	...	0

